

Remarks

In the present response, claims 1 – 20 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, 14, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 7,046,287 (Nishino). Claims 2, 4, 12, and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of US publication number 20030017856 (Kotchick). Claims 9, 13, and 16-18 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishino in view of USPN 7,084,919 (Shibata). These rejections are traversed.

The independent claims recite numerous recitations that are not taught or suggested in the art of record. By way of example, claims 1 and 13 recite a hinge having a first end and a second end “oppositely disposed from the first end.” These claims then recite that the image capture device is “oriented to capture images aligned with the first and second ends along the first axis of the hinge.”

FIGS. 2A – 2C in Nishino show a viewfinder 4 disposed at one end of hinge 1Z and a lens 2 disposed adjacent the viewfinder 4. Notice that the lens 2 in Nishino does not align with oppositely disposed ends of the hinge 1Z. The lens 2 in Nishino points out perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z. Further, the lens 2 in Nishino does not align along the axis of hinge 1Z. Again, the lens 2 in Nishino aligns perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z, not along the axis.

Further yet, images are not aligned with oppositely disposed ends in Nishino. FIG. 1B in Nishino shows the lens on a face of the body, and FIGS. 2A – 2C show the lens perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z. Thus, images in Nishino are perpendicularly aligned with the axis of hinge 1Z. The teachings of Nishino are in direct contrast to the express language in claims 1 and 13. Specifically, the claims recite first and second oppositely disposed ends. The claims then recite that images are aligned with the first and second ends. Again, Nishino teaches directing the lens 2 at the image, not oppositely disposed ends of the axis of hinge 1Z.

Kotchick and Shibata fail to cure the deficiencies of Nishino. Thus, for at least these reasons, the claims are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 14 and 20 recite “aligning oppositely disposed ends of the first hinge axis with images to be captured.” This method is in direct contrast to Nishino. FIG. 1B in Nishino shows the lens on a face of the body, and FIGS. 2A – 2C show the lens perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z. By contrast, claims 14 and 20 recite aligning oppositely disposed ends with images to be captured. Again, Nishino teaches directing the lens 2 at the image, not oppositely disposed ends of the axis of hinge 1Z.

Further, claims 14 and 20 recite capturing the images aligned along the first hinge axis. Notice that the lens 2 in Nishino points out perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z. Further, the lens 2 in Nishino does not align along the axis of hinge 1Z. Again, the lens 2 in Nishino aligns perpendicular to the axis of hinge 1Z.

Kotchick and Shibata fail to cure the deficiencies of Nishino. Thus, for at least these reasons, the claims are allowable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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